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# National Indian Gaming Commission

Regulatory Compliance ★ Gaming Integrity

## Facts at a Glance

*Ensuring the integrity of the Indian gaming industry*

### WHO WE ARE

NIGC is an independent federal regulatory agency within the Department of the Interior. Congress established the agency through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988 to:

- ★ Promote tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong tribal governments;
- ★ Maintain the integrity of the Indian gaming industry and;
- ★ Ensure that tribes are the primary beneficiaries of their gaming activities.

IGRA provides funding for the agency through fees paid by Indian gaming operations directly to the NIGC.

#### Achievements for 2015:

- ✓ Approved Tribal Management Contracts: 66
- ✓ Gaming Ordinances Approved: 45
- ✓ Fingerprint cards processed: 73,000
- ✓ Training courses offered: 52
- ✓ Training Attendees: 3,493

NIGC has 7 Regional offices including Headquarters in Washington, DC



- ★ Headquarters
- Portland Region
- Sacramento Region
- Phoenix Region
- St. Paul Region
- Tulsa Region
- Oklahoma Region
- Washington, D.C. Region

Strong workforce = 105 employees  
Annual budget of \$19 million

## Gaming Operations

- ♠ 238 gaming tribes with 474 gaming operations
- ♠ 28 States with Indian gaming operations
- ♠ 2015 Gross Gaming Revenues (GGR): \$29.9B
- ♠ 2015 GGR increased 5% from 2014
- ♠ The largest increase in 10 years
- ♠ Indian Gaming Operations with only Class II machines: 75
- ♠ Indian Gaming Operations with only Class III machines: 94
- ♠ Indian Gaming Operations with both Class II & III machines: 317

## Initiatives

To protect against anything that amounts to **GAMESMANSHIP** on the backs of tribes.

- The NIGC defines gamesmanship in Indian Gaming as:
  - When non-tribal-governmental interests manipulate governmental business relationships to further their own interests or agendas at the expense of the tribe and its citizens.
- Gamesmanship violations arising from IGRA often include:
  - Managing an Indian gaming operation without an approved management contract, misuse of gaming revenue, a violation of the sole proprietary interest requirement, or all of the above.

To support **RURAL OUTREACH** to smaller gaming establishments in rural areas.

- The NIGC created Rural Outreach Coordinator to:
  - Increase communication, facilitate coordination and enhance regulatory relationships to build on the agency's commitment of supporting capacity and a level playing for all tribes that pursue gaming.

To stay ahead of the **TECHNOLOGY** curve.

- The NIGC provides:
  - Trainings to help make aware of how technology innovations can create vulnerabilities to the a tribal operation's data and security measures - arguably the most valuable part of many gaming operations.
  - IT Vulnerability Assessments at a tribe's request to conduct IT threat assessments and provide a report and recommendations.

Support a **STRONG WORK FORCE**.

- Both within NIGC and among our regulatory partners.

## Commissioners



**JONODEV OSCEOLA CHAUDHURI**  
Chairman

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri (Muscogee (Creek)) was sworn in as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell on May 13, 2015. Prior to his designation as Acting Chairman by President Obama in October 2013, he served as Associate Commissioner and Vice Chair. Chairman Chaudhuri was initially appointed to the Commission by the Secretary of Interior in September of 2013. Prior to joining the NIGC, Chairman Chaudhuri was Senior Counselor to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, where he provided guidance and assistance on a wide range of national policy issues, including Indian gaming, economic development, energy, Alaska affairs, and tribal recognition.



**KATHRYN ISOM-CLAUSE**  
Vice Chair

Vice Chair Kathryn Isom-Clause (Taos Pueblo) was appointed by the Secretary of Interior on February 2016 for a three-year term. Prior to joining the NIGC, Isom-Clause served as a senior counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. In this position, she advised the Assistant Secretary on Indian gaming matters, including tribal-state gaming compacts, environmental compliance issues and revenue allocation plans. She also chaired interagency working groups on sacred sites and homelessness, and coordinated listening sessions and roundtables with tribal stakeholders. In addition, her portfolio included the restoration and protection of tribal homelands.



**E. SEQUOYAH SIMERMAYER**  
Associate Commissioner

Associate Commissioner E. Sequoyah Simermeyer (Coharie) was appointed by the Secretary of Interior on November 2015 for a three-year term. Prior to joining the NIGC, Simermeyer advised the Chairman to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. In that capacity he helped draft legislative proposals and committee reports, prepared oversight and legislative hearing and advanced the committee's work on priority issues facing Indian country. Simermeyer also served as Deputy Chief of Staff and as counselor to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.